

### **Equity Research**

April 27, 2016

### **Mark Palmer**

(212) 588-6582 mpalmer@btig.com

### Giuliano Bologna

(212) 588-6583 gbologna@btig.com

| SC              | \$11.85 |
|-----------------|---------|
| 12 month target | \$21.00 |

### **BUY**

52 week range \$8.87 - \$26.52 Market Cap (m) \$4,223



### **Financials**

# Santander Consumer USA Holdings

SC Posts 1Q16 EPS Beat as Trade-off of Better Credit for Less Market Share More Bearable in Current Market

During the road show leading up to Santander Consumer USA's (SC, Buy, \$21 PT) January 2014 initial public offering, many investors were impressed by the company's track record of pulling back on subprime auto loan originations during times when the algorithms that generated its credit decisions indicated that it was appropriate to do so. However, when SC curtailed its lending for a brief period a few months later, the market punished the company's shares given reduced near-term growth prospects.

- ▶ Flash forward to 1Q16. With investors increasingly leery about the potential for credit issues at some smaller subprime auto lenders to manifest themselves in earnest at SC, and those concerns weighing heavily on the stock price as reflected in its forward earnings multiple of just 5.3x, we believe the trade-off of better credit for less growth is likely to be much better received.
- ► That theory will be tested today as SC reported a 1Q16 earnings beat this morning that reflected management's disciplined approach to underwriting in the quarter and the resulting loss of market share as well as a better-than-expected provision for loan losses. The company reported 1Q16 earnings per share of \$0.59, beating the consensus estimate of \$0.56 and our estimate of \$0.55.
- ▶ We are reiterating our Buy recommendation on SC and price target of \$21 based on 8x our 2017E EPS of \$2.59. We believe the recent takeover chatter around SC has underscored its franchise value and that concerns about meaningful credit deterioration are overblown in its case.
- SC's core retail auto originations declined by 15% year-over-year to \$2.6bn while total auto loan originations fell by 7.8% versus the prior year period.
- ▶ Valuation: Our price target of \$21 for SC is based on 8x our 2017E EPS of \$2.59.

### **Estimates**

|                    | 1Q15 A | 2Q15 A | 3Q15 A | 4Q15 A | FY15 A | 1Q16 A | 2Q16 E | 3Q16 E | 4Q16 E | FY16 E | FY17 E |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Net Income (Adj.)  | 289    | 285    | 224    | 68     | 866    | 201    | 241    | 207    | 188    | 836    | 948    |
| Diluted EPS (Adj.) | 0.81   | 0.79   | 0.62   | 0.19   | 2.41   | 0.56   | 0.67   | 0.57   | 0.52   | 2.30   | 2.59   |
| Operating Income   | 431    | 447    | 353    | 109    | 1,339  | 317    | 376    | 324    | 294    | 1,310  | 1,481  |

Source: BTIG Research Estimates and Company Documents (\$ in millions, except per share amount)



► Meanwhile, SC's allowance ratio remained steady at 12.4% in 1Q16, up from 12.3% in 4Q15, and its provision for credit losses of \$707mm was down \$83mm sequentially and meaningfully below our estimate of \$792.5mm.



### **Income Statement**

| Santander Consumer USA Operating Model                | Dec-11   | Dec-12   | Dec-13   | Dec-14   | Mar-15   | Jun-15   | Sep-15   | Dec-15   | Dec-15   | Mar-16   | Jun-16   | Sep-16   | Dec-16   | Dec-16   | Dec-17   |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| \$ millions   | 2011A    | 2012A    | 2013A    | 2014A    | 1Q15A    | 2Q15A    | 3Q15A    | 4Q15A    | 2015A    | 1Q16A    | 2Q16E    | 3Q16E    | 4Q16E    | 2016E    | 2017E    |
| Total finance and other interest income               | 2,594.51 | 2,948.50 | 3,934.02 | 5,569.66 | 1,570.29 | 1,683.12 | 1,733.53 | 1,749.89 | 6,736.82 | 1,675.47 | 1,799.93 | 1,798.61 | 1,832.60 | 7,106.61 | 7,566.49 |
| Interest expense                                      | 418.53   | 374.03   | 408.79   | 523.20   | 148.86   | 150.62   | 171.42   | 157.89   | 628.79   | 184.74   | 188.43   | 192.20   | 196.04   | 761.41   | 848.87   |
| Leased vehicle expense                                | -        | -        | 121.54   | 740.24   | 273.06   | 281.12   | 296.35   | 336.45   | 1,186.98 | 218.78   | 251.60   | 250.34   | 249.09   | 969.80   | 947.51   |
| Net interest margin                                   | 2,175.99 | 2,574.48 | 3,403.69 | 4,306.22 | 1,148.37 | 1,251.38 | 1,265.75 | 1,255.55 | 4,921.05 | 1,271.95 | 1,359.90 | 1,356.08 | 1,387.48 | 5,375.41 | 5,770.10 |
| Provision for loan losses                             | 819.22   | 1,122.45 | 1,852.97 | 2,616.66 | 605.98   | 738.74   | 744.14   | 799.98   | 2,888.83 | 706.57   | 807.84   | 855.79   | 916.30   | 3,286.51 | 3,585.94 |
| Profit sharing  |          |          | 78.25    | 74.93    | 13.52    | 21.50    | 11.82    | 10.65    | 57.48    | 11.39    | 11.51    | 11.62    | 11.74    | 46.26    | 49.10    |
| Net interest margin after provisions & profit sharing | 1,356.77 | 1,452.02 | 1,472.48 | 1,614.64 | 528.87   | 491.14   | 509.80   | 444.92   | 1,974.73 | 553.99   | 540.55   | 488.66   | 459.43   | 2,042.63 | 2,135.06 |
| Gain on sale of receivables                           | -        | -        | 40.69    | 116.77   | 21.25    | 86.67    | 1.57     | (225.61) | (116.13) | (73.15)  | -        | -        | -        | (73.15)  | -        |
| Servicing fee income                                  | 251.39   | 34.14    | 25.46    | 72.63    | 24.80    | 28.04    | 35.91    | 42.36    | 131.11   | 44.49    | 45.61    | 46.75    | 47.92    | 184.76   | 218.87   |
| Fees, commissions and other                           | 201.14   | 261.55   | 245.41   | 368.28   | 101.13   | 94.27    | 93.08    | 86.60    | 375.08   | 101.34   | 103.36   | 105.43   | 107.54   | 417.66   | 456.52   |
| Total other income                                    | 452.53   | 295.69   | 311.57   | 557.67   | 147.18   | 208.98   | 130.55   | (96.65)  | 390.07   | 72.68    | 148.97   | 152.18   | 155.45   | 529.27   | 675.39   |
| Salary and benefit expense                            | 213.69   | 225.16   | 305.06   | 482.64   | 100.54   | 110.97   | 136.29   | 95.41    | 443.21   | 119.84   | 122.24   | 124.68   | 127.18   | 493.94   | 524.17   |
| Servicing and repossession expense                    | 155.86   | 136.55   | 147.54   | 201.02   | 58.83    | 55.47    | 60.77    | 66.46    | 241.52   | 73.55    | 74.28    | 75.02    | 75.77    | 298.62   | 310.75   |
| Other operating costs                                 | 187.54   | 197.45   | 246.36   | 278.38   | 86.01    | 86.99    | 90.28    | 77.43    | 340.71   | 116.45   | 117.04   | 117.62   | 118.21   | 469.32   | 494.49   |
| Total costs and expenses                              | 557.08   | 559.16   | 698.96   | 962.04   | 245.38   | 253.43   | 287.34   | 239.30   | 1,025.45 | 309.84   | 313.56   | 317.33   | 321.16   | 1,261.89 | 1,329.41 |
| Income before taxes                                   | 1,252.21 | 1,188.55 | 1,085.09 | 1,210.27 | 430.68   | 446.69   | 353.01   | 108.98   | 1,339.35 | 316.82   | 375.96   | 323.51   | 293.73   | 1,310.02 | 1,481.04 |
| Income taxes  | 464.03   | 453.62   | 389.42   | 443.64   | 141.43   | 161.23   | 129.11   | 41.23    | 472.99   | 116.13   | 135.35   | 116.46   | 105.74   | 473.68   | 533.18   |
| Net income  | 788.18   | 734.93   | 695.67   | 766.63   | 289.25   | 285.46   | 223.90   | 67.74    | 866.36   | 200.69   | 240.62   | 207.05   | 187.99   | 836.34   | 947.87   |
| Noncontrolling interests                              | (19.98)  | (19.93)  | 1.82     | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        | -        |
| Net income attributable to Santander Consumer USA     | 768.20   | 715.00   | 697.49   | 766.63   | 289.25   | 285.46   | 223.90   | 67.74    | 866.36   | 200.69   | 240.62   | 207.05   | 187.99   | 836.34   | 947.87   |
| Comprehensive income                                  | 776.16   | 737.27   | 701.98   | 766.63   | 289.25   | 285.46   | 223.90   | 67.74    | 866.36   | 200.69   | 240.62   | 207.05   | 187.99   | 836.34   | 947.87   |
| Earnings per share                                    | \$3.13   | \$2.07   | \$2.01   | \$2.15   | \$0.81   | \$0.79   | \$0.62   | \$0.19   | \$2.41   | \$0.56   | \$0.67   | \$0.57   | \$0.52   | \$2.30   | \$2.59   |
| Dividends per share                                   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.84   | \$0.30   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Shares outstanding                                    | 245.78   | 346.16   | 346.18   | 355.86   | 356.65   | 359.19   | 362.22   | 361.96   | 360.01   | 360.23   | 361.13   | 362.03   | 362.94   | 362.94   | 366.58   |

Source: BTIG Research Estimates and Company Documents



# **Appendix: Analyst Certification and Other Important Disclosures**

## **Analyst Certification**

I, Mark Palmer, hereby certify that the views about the companies and securities discussed in this report are accurately expressed and that I have not received and will not receive direct or indirect compensation in exchange for expressing specific recommendations or views in this report.

I, Giuliano Bologna, hereby certify that the views about the companies and securities discussed in this report are accurately expressed and that I have not received and will not receive direct or indirect compensation in exchange for expressing specific recommendations or views in this report.

### **Regulatory Disclosures**

### **Analyst Stock Ratings Definitions**

BTIG LLC's ("BTIG") ratings, effective May 10, 2010, are defined as follows:

**BUY** – A stock that is expected at initiation to produce a positive total return of 15% or greater over the 12 months following the initial recommendation. The BUY rating may be maintained following initiation as long as it is deemed appropriate, notwithstanding price fluctuations that would cause the target to fall outside of the 15% return.

**SELL** – A stock that is expected at initiation to produce a negative total return of 15% or greater over the next 12 months following the initial recommendation. The SELL rating may be maintained following initiation as long as it is deemed appropriate, notwithstanding price fluctuations that would cause the target to fall outside of the 15% return.

**NEUTRAL** – A stock that is not expected to appreciate or depreciate meaningfully over the next 12 months. **NOT RATED** – A stock that is not rated but that is covered by BTIG.

### Distribution of Ratings and Investment Banking Clients

BTIG must disclose in each research report the percentage of all securities rated by the member to which the member would assign a "buy", "neutral" or "sell" rating. The said ratings are updated on a quarterly basis. BTIG must also disclose the percentage of subject companies within each of these three categories for whom the member has provided investment banking services within the previous twelve months. Stocks under coverage as of the end of the most recent calendar quarter (March 31, 2016): 182

Distribution of BTIG's Research Recommendations (as of March 31, 2016):

BUY: 62.6%; NEUTRAL: 34.1%; SELL: 3.3%

Distribution of BTIG's Investment Banking Services (as of March 31, 2016):

BUY: 92.9%; NEUTRAL: 7.1%; SELL: 0%

For purposes of FINRA ratings distribution rules, BTIG's stock ratings of Buy, Neutral and Sell fall into Buy, Hold and Sell categories, respectively.

# Company Valuation and Risk Disclosures Santander Consumer USA Holdings (SC, Buy)

Valuation: Our price target of \$21 is based on 8x our 2017E earnings per share of \$2.59

**Risks:** Primary risks to our recommendation include reduced access to funding; higher-than-expected default rates, particularly on nonprime receivables; poor portfolio performance that triggers credit enhancement provisions on the company's revolving credit facilities or secured structured financings; inability to meet certain milestones and metrics that could result in the termination of the company's agreement with Chrysler; adverse changes in interest rates; adverse economic conditions; and regulatory risks.



# Santander Consumer USA Holdings (SC)



Note: Closing Price and Target Price have been adjusted for corporate actions.

| Date      | Closing Price (\$) | Target Price (\$) | Analyst     | Rating |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| 22-Jan-14 | 25.25              | 31                | Mark Palmer | Buy    |
| 04-Nov-14 | 17.29              | 26                | Mark Palmer | Buy    |
| 28-Apr-15 | 24                 | 28                | Mark Palmer | Buy    |
| 30-Jul-15 | 24.18              | 30                | Mark Palmer | Buy    |
| 25-Jan-16 | 13.40              | 21                | Mark Palmer | Buy    |

#### Other Disclosures

Additional Information Available Upon Request

#### **General Disclosures**

Research reports produced by BTIG LLC ("BTIG") are published for and intended to be distributed solely to BTIG institutional and corporate clients. Recipients of BTIG reports will not be considered clients of BTIG solely because they may have received such BTIG report.

The equity research analyst(s) responsible for the preparation of this report receives compensation based upon a variety of factors, including the quality and accuracy of research, internal/client feedback, and overall Firm revenues.

BTIG reports are based on public information and BTIG considers the same to be reliable, comprehensive information, but makes no representation or warranty that the reports are accurate or complete. BTIG opinions and information provided in this report are as of the date of the report and may change without notice.

This research report is not an offer to buy or sell or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any security in any jurisdiction where such an offer or solicitation would be illegal. This research report was not drafted specifically for any particular individual or entity and is not a personal recommendation to participate in any particular trading strategy or transaction. Any recipient of this research report should obtain independent advice specific to their personal circumstances before undertaking any investment activity and must make their own independent evaluation of any securities or financial instruments.



Facts, views or opinions presented in this report have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, employees or other professionals in the "BTIG Group" (BTIG Group includes, but is not limited to, BTIG and its parents, subsidiaries and/or affiliates). BTIG Group employees, including Sales Representatives and Traders, may provide oral or written commentary or advice that may be inconsistent with the opinions and/or views expressed in this research report. BTIG Group employees and/or its affiliates not involved in the preparation of this research report may have investments in securities or derivatives of securities of companies mentioned in this report that are inconsistent with the views discussed in this report.

Investors in securities products bear certain risks in conjunction with those investments. The value of, and income from, any investments may vary because of changes in interest rates or foreign exchange rates, securities prices or market indexes, operational or financial conditions of companies or other factors within or beyond the companies control. Recipient of the research reports should be aware that investments in equity securities may pose significant risks due to the inherent uncertainty associated with relying on forecasts of various factors that can affect the earnings, cash flow and overall valuation of a company. Any investment in equity securities should be undertaken only upon consideration of issues relating to the recipient's overall investment portfolio and objectives (such as diversification by asset class, industry or company) as well as time horizon and liquidity needs. Further, past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. There may be time limitations on the exercise of options or other rights in any securities transactions.

Investing in foreign markets and securities, including ADRs, is subject to additional risks such as currency fluctuation, limited information, political instability, economic risk, and the potential for illiquid markets. Investing in emerging markets may accentuate these risks. Non-U.S. reporting issuers of foreign securities, however, may not make regular or complete public disclosure relating to their financial condition or the securities that they issue.

The trademarks and service marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners. Third-party data providers make no warranties or representations of any kind relating to the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the data they provide and shall not have liability of any damages of any kind relating to such data. The report or any portion hereof may not be reprinted, sold or redistributed without the written consent of BTIG. This report is intended only for use by the recipient. The recipient acknowledges that all research and analysis in this report are the property of BTIG and agrees to limit the use of all publications received from BTIG within his, or her or its, own company or organization. No rights are given for passing on, transmitting, re transmitting or reselling the information provided.

#### Jurisdiction and Dissemination

BTIG is a U.S. broker-dealer and member of FINRA and SIPC.

BTIG Australia Limited ACN 128 554 601, member of ASIC and ASX; BTIG Hong Kong Limited, an Exchange Participant of SEHK and licensed and regulated by the SFC; BTIG Ltd, member of the LSE, authorized and regulated by the FSA; and BTIG Singapore Pte Ltd, registered and licensed with MAS; are all separate but affiliated entities of BTIG. Unless governing law permits otherwise, you must contact a BTIG entity in your home jurisdiction for further information, or if you want to use our services in effecting a transaction.

Issues and approved for distribution in the UK and EEA by BTIG Ltd. to eligible counterparties and professional clients only. Issued and distributed in Australia to "wholesale clients" only by BTIG Australia Limited. In Singapore and Hong Kong, further information may be obtained from BTIG Singapore Pte Ltd and BTIG Hong Kong Limited, respectively.